

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 7-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 13 and 14 are amended. Claims 2-6 are canceled. No new matter is added by the above amendment. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Objections

The Office Action objects to claims 6 and 7 under 37 C.F.R. §1.75. More specifically, the Office Action asserts that claims 6 and 7, despite a slight difference in wording, are substantially duplicates. Applicants respectfully disagree. Nonetheless, claim 6 is canceled. Thus, this objection is moot.

Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As amended, claim 13 recites in part "a computer-readable recording media for recording the layout program." Thus, the rejection is overcome.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-5 and 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0182210 (Weitzman). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action states that claims 1-5 and 8-14 are unpatentable over Weitzman. However, claims 1, 13 and 14 are amended to include the features of claims 2 and 5. The feature of "order data including an operation log information," as recited in claims 1, 13 and 14, is not disclosed in Weitzman. According to the presently claimed features, the vendor can retrace the user operations from the operation log information and therefore can narrow the

process in which the layout has been generated. Accordingly, the vendor can readily know the user's intent concerning the layout and therefore provide a layout that substantially satisfies the user's intent. At least this feature, and the benefits associated thereof, are not taught or suggested by Weitzman. Thus, the rejection of claims 1, 13 and 14 is overcome and these claims are in condition for allowance.

Claims 8-12 depend from claim 1. Thus, claims 8-12 are allowable at least for the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Claims 2-5 are canceled. Thus, the rejections with respect to claims 2-5 are moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Weitzman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,741,904 (Gage). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 is canceled. Thus, the rejection with respect to claim 6 is moot.

As discussed above, Weitzman fails to disclose "order data including an operation log information," as recited in claim 1. Gage is merely relied upon as allegedly disclosing a layout system that is communicably connected to a matching system that performs matching with a designer. Thus, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claim 7, which depends from claim 1, is also in condition for allowance for the same reasons as claim 1, as well as the additional features claim 7 recites.

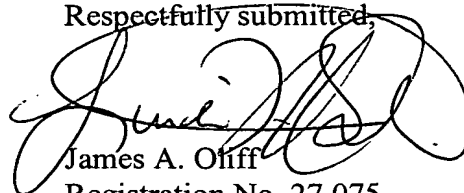
Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 27, 2007

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